**Lesson 12 Genesis 16 & 17**

**Hagar and Ishmael**

**Genesis 16**

1. A. How could Sarai and Abram’s decision regarding Hagar show some faith in God’s promise of Gen. 15, but also partial unbelief?

 B. What were the immediate results?

2. Can you think of illustrations from present day life where we too try to help God, using the wrong methods instead of fully trusting Him? (Also see Matthew 16:22-24)

22 Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.”

23 He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,\* take up his cross, and follow me.

3. How was Hagar’s unhappiness partly caused by wrong done to her by God’s people and partly caused by her own wrong attitudes?

4. When Hagar ran away from her difficulties, how were these difficulties only increased, even to nearly causing her to lose the good thing God had in store for her?

5. What does chapter 16 tell you about God? About human nature?

6. *Challenge Question:*  In the light of history, do we find truth for today in the prophecy of verse 10 and 11-12?

10 I will make your descendants so numerous,” added the LORD’s angel, “that they will be too many to count.”

11 Then the LORD’s angel said to her: “You are now pregnant and shall bear a son; you shall name him Ishmael, For the LORD has heeded your affliction.

12 He shall be a wild ass of a man, his hand against everyone, and everyone’s hand against him; Alongside\* all his kindred shall he encamp.”

7. A. How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

 B. How long had Abram already waited for God’s promises of an heir to be fulfilled?

 C. What do you learn from this? (2 Peter 3:8-9)

8 Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

9 Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing

**Genesis 17**

8. A. Genesis 17:1 and Matthew 5:48 tell us to “be perfect” or blameless. Does this mean sinless? See Philippians 3:12&15 also Hebrews 6:1.

Genesis 17:1

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said: I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless.

Matthew 5:48

48 So be perfect,\* just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Philippians 3:12&15

1 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God

15 Let us, then, who are “perfectly mature” adopt this attitude. And if you have a different attitude, this too God will reveal to you.

Hebrews 6:1

1 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God

 B. How was Abram to accomplish this according to 17:1? (CCC2571)

9. In the ancient world a name conveyed the essence of a person and giving a name conveyed rule or ownership. What then do you make of Abram and Sarai’s name change?

10. How do these verses show the symbolism of circumcision?

 A. Deuteronomy 30:6

6 The LORD, your God, will circumcise your hearts\* and the hearts of your descendants, so that you will love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart and your whole being, in order that you may live.

 B. Ezekiel 44:7

7 You have admitted foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and flesh, into my sanctuary to profane it when you offered me food, the fat and blood.\* Thus you have broken my covenant by all your abominations